

EL PASO DAILY HERALD.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

EL PASO, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1899.

VOL. XIX, NO. 150



THE magnificent part played by the great west during the war with Spain is amply demonstrated by the Rough Riders' Reunion now in progress at Las Vegas.

The Rough Riders represent the bone and sinew of the frontier and the regiment is typical of the wild and woolly west; its members bore the brunt of the battles with the Spaniards around Santiago, did the heavy fighting, and to them belongs the glory of the victory.

It was the purpose of the organizers of the splendid regiment to gather together men who were inured to all the hardships of constant life in the saddle and who were accustomed to fight as regularly or as willingly as to eat and who dreaded neither man nor beast. To find men of this class it was necessary to seek in the west, and to get them to enlist it was only necessary to proclaim that the great nation was in need of their services—possibly their lives—and grizzled men, booted, spurred and heavily armed came flocking to Roosevelt's standard from mountain, plain and desert and announced themselves ready to face the foreign foe—to grapple with the Spaniard on his own soil and to show him that the west alone could furnish enough troops, seasoned from force of habit, to whip, if need be, the combined forces of Europe.

Without any apparent difficulty the regiment of Rough Riders was raised and the enlisted men being already trained better than a grenadier of France at the time of Napoleon I, there was no need of months of hard drilling and garrison duty to fit them for the field. They were ready and eager for battle the day after enlistment.

Probably one thing was lacking among this splendid body of horsemen whose freedom and individuality had never been interfered with, and that was discipline. But Roosevelt, the man who had bearded the New York corruptionist in his den and tamed him, was in command. He impressed upon his men that without discipline an army would be no better than an armed mob and to get the best results it was necessary for each man to obey implicitly and all concertedly the orders of their superiors. With such a regiment at his back fully disciplined he said he would not fear to march against the capital of Russia; without discipline they could expect to be defeated.

It was not necessary to say more. The splendid conduct of the regiment in the field demonstrated that his words had borne good fruit and that each man understood his duty thoroughly.

From that day the men were obedient to the letter. When a company was ordered to stay behind at Tampa and turn livery stable keepers while their comrades went forward to win immortal fame there was not a murmur, and when the men, who were born in the saddle and relied on their horses more than on themselves, were told that they would have to fight on foot there was not a word of protest heard.

El Paso's Quota.

The story of call for volunteers and the organization of the Rough Riders' regiment is well known to every resident of this city and locality which furnished its quota of the enlisted men and officers.

The majority of the men from this city joined Captain Curry's troop, organized in what is now Otero county, and went to the front. They got no further than Tampa, however, but were compelled to grit their teeth and bear the unfortunate circumstance which designated them as the troopers to be left behind to care for the horses of the entire regiment. In discharging their duties faithfully, however, these men demonstrated that they were possessed of higher courage and fortitude than was required by their comrades who faced the whistling Mausers.

Captain Buckey O'Neill.

One of the most prominent officers in the entire regiment was Captain Buckey O'Neill who organized a troop in Arizona. His men passed through this city at midnight on a special train and the writer had the pleasure of meeting the brilliant O'Neill then for the first time. It was also the last time, for O'Neill was killed in Cuba while bravely leading his men, and his name stands out prominently in the history of the regiment and of the war.

O'Neill's body was buried among the dark morasses of Cuba and his unmarked grave was for a time completely lost, but after diligent search discovered. The body was exhumed and brought to Washington where it was buried with many of the daring Arizonian's comrades with military honors.

While the regiment was mainly composed of western rough riders and fearless fighters it also numbered among its enlisted men many wealthy young

club men and other choice spirits, who joined in New York and other cities and took their places in the trenches beside the cowboys and plainsmen. Prominent among these was young Hamilton Fish of New York, who was killed during the first skirmishing on the island. While he was possessed of a fortune, he was accustomed to lead a wild, devil-may-care life, and the pros-



GOVERNOR THEO. ROOSEVELT.

The Rough Riders' Idol.

pect of joining the westerner's regiment caught his fancy and he made a typical soldier, dying with his face to the enemy in an effort to free the unhappy island.

He was the first victim of the war fought where the blood of the unavenged crew of the Virginian bespattered the ground.

The Reunion.

That the attendance at the Las Vegas reunion, which begins Saturday

and lasts until Monday, will be large goes without saying.

Governor Roosevelt will be there and probably 90 per cent of the enlisted men and commissioned officers. Besides these a vast throng of visitors from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona will attend.

An elaborate program has been arranged for the three days at Las Vegas as follows:

Rough Riders' Encampment, Lincoln Park, Las Vegas.

Saturday, June 24.—9 a. m.—Assembly.

Address, Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

Address, Lt. Col. A. O. Brodie, Pres. Regimental Organization.

Report, Lt. J. D. Carter, Secy. Reg. Organization.

Election of officers for ensuing year.

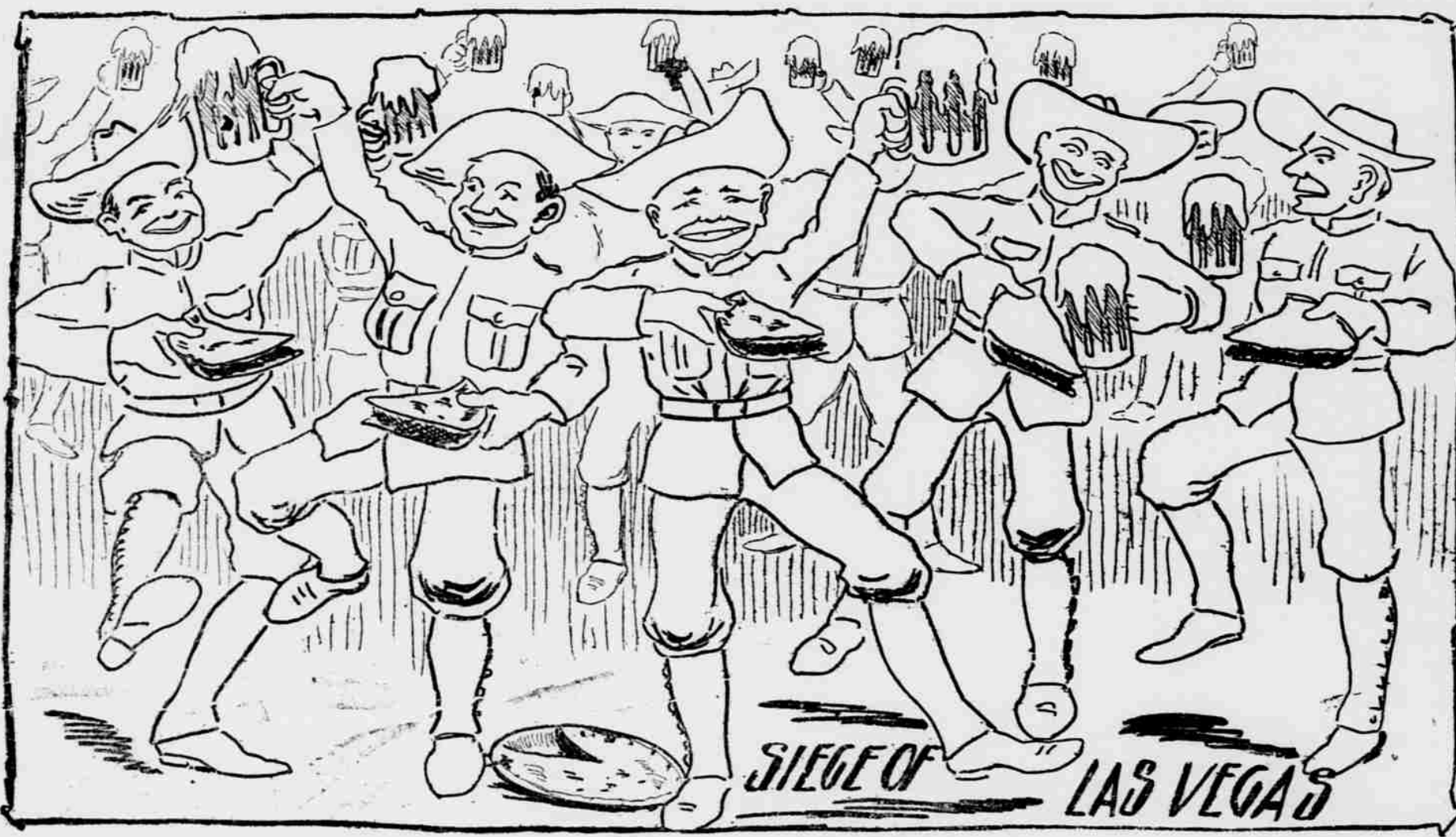
Regimental Review by Col. Roosevelt and invited guests.

2 p. m.—Regimental parade.

8 p. m.—Regimental reunion and reception, Duncan opera house, at which will be made addresses by officers, troopers and invited guests of the regiment.

Sunday, June 25.—11 a. m.—Union memorial services, Duncan opera house.

Sunday, June 25.—8 p. m.—Grand Sacred Concert, Duncan Opera House.

THE CHARGE UP
SAN JUAN HILLSIEGE OF
LAS VEGAS